

# Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

## Bulletin

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII, No. 3

MARCH 15, 1928

*"The adjustment of a child is a delicate process. It calls for faith and confidence in those who are to nurture him, else the best they have to give will not be brought into play. The right kind of foster family is a fairly free agent, and unless so treated drops out of the running. The finer the family, the more true this is. The qualities it has to give must be bestowed with an artistry, or one has the institutionalized atmosphere that fails in all of its human relations. It is here the placement visitor plays so important a part. While never consciously directing, she always must be ready with sympathy and help; with a fresh outlook and new courage in a difficult situation. It is for her to interpret the sensitive relationship between the child, his new family, and his own parents."—From "A TOUCH OF HEALTH AND OTHER HOMES," The Children's Bureau of Philadelphia.*

### MID-WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM IS ANNOUNCED

The committee in charge of the Mid-Western Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America is arranging a varied and stimulating program. The conference will be in session March 23rd and 24th at the Auditorium Hotel, 430 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Although the entire program is not available, the following list of subjects and speakers is descriptive of each session. The names of discussion leaders and chairmen will appear in the printed programs.

FRIDAY, March 23d.—10 A. M. to 11.45 A. M.

"Relations between Public and Private Agencies." Miss Belle Greve, Dept. of Public Welfare, Columbus, Ohio.

Four or five—five minute talks from various points of view, followed by general discussions.

12.15 P. M. Luncheon.

Address by C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America.

2 P. M. to 3.30 P. M. Psychiatric Demonstration.

Dr. Paul Schroeder, Institute for Juvenile Research, Chicago, Illinois.

3.30 P. M. to 5 P. M. Round Tables.

a. Children's Codes.

b. Adoption of Illegitimate Children.

6 P. M. Dinner meeting.

Address: "Religion and Social Work." Dr. John A. Lapp, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

SATURDAY, March 24th.—9 A. M.

Case Presentation. Jacob Kepecs, Jewish Home Finding Society, Chicago, Illinois.

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### INSTITUTION NEWS

#### CHILDREN AND LEISURE

In the February issue of "Child Study," published by the Child Study Association of America, there appears an article entitled "Children and Leisure," by Porter R. Lee, Director of the New York School of Social Work. While this article was written with the child in the family home in mind, it brings out many points which institutional executives and cottage mothers too often lose sight of in the midst of the day's routine.

The following excerpts from Mr. Lee's article are particularly applicable to the child in the institution:

"The task of providing leisure for children at home and insuring a wise use of it may become simpler if we analyze human relationships from the point of view of experience rather than from that of science. For the individual human being, particularly the human being in pursuit of leisure, human relationships have two important aspects. These two aspects I should like to call privacy and fellowship. By privacy I mean the possession of time, facilities, opportunities or material things, the use of which is, for the time being at least, within one's own control. Privacy in this sense is indispensable to satisfying existence. It does not suggest anything anti-social. It does not mean solitude, which connotes a status in which intercourse with other human beings is more or less impossible. Privacy, on the other hand, suggests a deliberate withdrawal from immediate social contacts for purposes which may be highly social. A sense of privacy may be achieved by as simple means as the possession of one end of a shelf in a crowded home which is sacred to one's own belongings. It may come on a grander scale through possession of an apartment of one's own, with time in which to use it by oneself. Privacy is a form of human experience within which one may guide his own destinies, reach his own decisions, make his own choice among all possible alternatives, unhampered by the demands of others. It is indispensable to the development of independent judgment.

"Fellowship I conceive to be the possession of a status with respect to other persons within which, on a basis of equality, one finds satisfaction in experience shared with others. It is the medium through which, with a minimum of emotional conflict, one acquires the art of tempering his judgments, his right of choice, his sense of values, by the adjustment of his personality and its needs to the personalities and needs of others.

" . . . There must be time when a child is free from pressure of circumstance, obligation, or demands

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## WALTER BROWN—A PSYCHIATRIC CASE STUDY IN AN INSTITUTION

### PART II

*(Concluded from February issue)*

ELEANOR, CLIFTON former Resident Psychologist,  
Berkshire Industrial Farm, Canaan, N. Y.

After a staff conference at which the psychiatrist, the psychiatric social worker, and the psychologist presented their findings, it was decided that treatment should be administered along two lines: First, the resources of the institution were to be utilized to their utmost and, second, Walter himself was to be dealt with directly in a series of psychotherapeutic conferences. The members of the institution staff who were to be responsible for the boy's supervision were given the results of the clinic's initial study. Walter, instead of being merely one of the group, became an individual to his housemother and teachers. Their response to the challenge implied in his particular problem was prompt and sincere. The institution nurse conceived the idea of appointing him assistant to the visiting dentist, and every other Wednesday found Walter arrayed in a white apron and proudly accepting his first real work responsibility. His good intelligence and his enthusiasm over the job soon made him indispensable. The dentist, a man of unusual understanding, helped to maintain the boy's interest by treating him in a man-to-man fashion, explaining patiently the nature of the various operations and even training him to perform such services as the removal of temporary fillings. It was amusing to see Walter, in the dentist's absence, lead a tearful, swollen-jawed little boy to the office, seat him in the chair, and reassure him in a grave, professional manner, saying, "Now, sit just as still as you can, Sonny, while I take out that filling. It's the gas under it that's giving you all the pain." And it was equally interesting to observe the confidence with which even the older boys accepted his ministrations until the dentist himself came to do the permanent work. When teeth were extracted, Walter would salvage them and carry them about in his pocket for experimental purposes. They were so much more satisfactory than the ones he had patiently carved from chalk and tried in vain to polish! This growing interest in dentistry brought him to a realization of the importance of continuing with his school work. One of the teachers offered to give him special help with his academic work, and he was allowed to begin certain high school subjects—another boost to his ego. As time went on, new sources of satisfaction presented themselves in the institution's excellently planned athletic program. Walter, after a summer of daily swims in which he exhibited considerable prowess, found himself captain of a football team which competed successfully

with several school teams from nearby towns. It is noteworthy that prior to his admission to the Farm the boy had shown no proficiency or interest in athletic sports, despite his superior physical endowment. The other boys, who had at the start nicknamed him "Fats" and tended to ridicule him as a "softy," began gradually to accept him as a sturdy, self-respecting member of the group. For the first time in his life he had made a place for himself through his own efforts and legitimate accomplishment. This was in marked contrast to his former school experience, when he had been able to put himself across only through lawless acts in which he played the part of tool for older and more popular boys. At the Farm he gained the reputation, not only in athletics, but in his every-day relationships as well, of being a "good sport." At one critical time, when three boys were chosen for the honor of attending outside high schools and there was not a little jealousy on the part of the less fortunate, one of the boys selected remarked, "Brown has sure been decent about our going. Of course, he was just as disappointed as any of them, but he has been good-natured all the way through."

With environmental treatment working out so favorably, the task of direct psychotherapy was facilitated. Walter, secure in the approval of the group and conscious of definite accomplishment, was a far more accessible person than the anxious, infantile boy who had been handed over to us as a failure, and who knew of no way to meet difficulties except by tears or sick headaches. The early conferences, to be sure, were stormy ones, with Walter bemoaning his lot and utterly lacking in insight. Then the psychiatric social worker made her visit to the home and returned with a first-hand point of view to present to the boy. She went into the entire situation with entire frankness, explaining first the inevitability of his mother's commitment to the State Hospital, and endeavoring next to help Walter see his father and the housekeeper as human beings like himself, seeking satisfaction and security as best they could in the face of a rigid law that prevented their marriage. The explanation of the mother's incurable mental disease and the necessity for permanent custodial care relieved the boy of his long-harbored suspicion that his father had put her away. With this doubt cleared up, he ceased to regard his father as a person led on by mysterious and dark motives to reject his mother and himself. From being a symbol of deprivation, this father became a flesh and blood individual whom Walter could understand and even sympathize with to some extent. This attitude on the boy's part was fostered by the father himself, who visited the Farm and discussed the matter with his son with unusual courage and honesty. After a few months Walter remarked to the psychiatrist, "I see my father's side of it now. He



never told me what was happening and how he and the housekeeper had such a good friendship. I kept thinking she was supposed to take care of me and then, when I wasn't there, she still stayed on. I know now that my father can't get a divorce because of the law. I'd like to see him marry her if he wants to. Of course, I can't say I love her and I don't want to go back home to live with them, but I can understand that he must have been pretty lonesome and needed her." It was obviously impossible to eradicate all painfulness from the situation for the boy. It was, however, possible to relieve much of his uncertainty and anxiety by helping him to understand the problem and by permitting him to assume the rôle of a sympathetic adult rather than an abused and neglected child. He was still deprived on the love side, but he was better able to accept this, with his reinforcement of self-respect. Walter also gained for the first time an appreciation of his father's willingness to make financial sacrifices for his training. The boy had always spent money freely, with no concern as to whether or not it could be spared. Perhaps the State Hospital psychiatrist termed him "mercenary" with some justice. With the realization brought home to him by the psychiatric social worker that his father was contributing a substantial proportion of his small salary toward his support he became interested in doing his share and succeeded in clothing himself with money earned by work in his free time at the Farm.

After two years at the institution Walter was discharged in order to enter a preparatory school and continue his academic education. Unfortunately, no psychiatric supervision is available at his new school, and we cannot predict indefinite smooth sailing for him. We do know that he has weathered the first term with average scholastic standing and with no serious transgressions to his discredit. We are also certain that his two years of psychiatric treatment have given him a fair margin of mental health which may carry him safely through the rest of his adolescent period.

#### MID-WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

10.30 A. M. to 11.45 A. M.

"Can a Good Home Improve a Child's Intelligence?" Professor Frank M. Freeman, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

12.15 P. M. Luncheon.

Address by Albert H. Stoneman, President, Child Welfare League of America.

2 P. M. Study: Mothers Who Have Kept Their Illegitimate Children. Mrs. Mabel H. Mattingly, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Rooms may be reserved at the Auditorium Hotel at the following rates: Single rooms without bath, \$2.00,

and double rooms for \$3.00; single rooms with bath, \$3.50; double rooms with bath, \$5.00.

All sessions of the League's regional conferences are open to any one interested in child welfare. There are no registration fees. Places at the dinner may be reserved at \$2.00.

#### THE SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Southwestern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America was held in Dallas, February 24th and 25th. Rev. Harry Lee Virden, of Dallas, served as chairman.

Mr. Carstens gave an opening address on the subject of recent developments in the child welfare field. His text might be said to be, "No real problem is ever solved without a careful analysis." This being granted, there follows naturally an admission of the vital importance of case work service in the whole field of child welfare.

Rev. Virden spoke on the subject of Parental Education. He raised the question as to how a community should provide such education, and pointed out its responsibility for undertaking such a task.

Mr. Owen R. Lovejoy, who spoke on the "Aftermath of Child Welfare," cited the development of individuals who had been clients of child welfare agencies in their youth, and emphasized the growth of social work in the field of child care.

The session, at which Mrs. Katherine Gibson, of Little Rock, presided, was opened by Dr. Maud Loeber, of New Orleans, Secretary of the Louisiana State Board of Charities, who spoke on child health. Dr. Loeber pointed out that more than half of all our social problems have at their base some health defect somewhere in the family. She stressed the importance of providing exhaustive rather than perfunctory physical examinations of all dependent children, to be followed by necessary corrective service and immunization.

Mrs. Grace Ashbaugh, of the American Red Cross, was the discussion leader of the session devoted to the Organization and Development of Rural Social Work. It was brought out that in 800 out of 3000 rural counties in the southwest, social work is being carried on by at least one social worker provided by state legislation or by private organizations. These workers use such indigenous agencies as the rural church, the school, the general store, the family doctor, and the county commissioners. Mrs. Ashbaugh stressed the fact that the best of workers is necessary in rural localities because there is so little supervision and aid, such as is possible in urban communities, and that rural social work is valuable only insofar as it tends to show the farmer how he may help himself.—Mrs. J. B. Hicks, Brownsville, Texas.

### THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

*President*—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit  
*Vice-President*—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.  
*Secretary*—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York  
*Treasurer*—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.  
*Executive Director*—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

### HOW CHILDREN LIVE AT HOMEWOOD TERRACE

DR. SAMUEL W. LANGER  
 Superintendent, Homewood Terrace, San Francisco

Homewood Terrace was planned primarily as a home-making project rather than an educational project. Its characteristics, insofar as they differ from other child-caring institutions, are traceable to this decisive stipulation. It is not claimed that ideal home conditions exist, or can exist, in this or any other institution. There are numerous circumstances which prevent institution groups from corresponding in every detail to ordinary family groups. Diverse inheritances must be associated in the same group units, and the children have not inherited from those who stand to them in place of parents. Continued intercourse is maintained between children and surviving parents, in addition to the relationship between child and guardian. Frequently this means unavoidable exposure to conflicting standards if ties of kinship are to be preserved. Yet mutual loyalty and understanding between the children and their relatives should be conserved, or built up if they do not already exist, despite the difficulties thereby superimposed on institution managers. These are only a few examples of the kind of thing which hampers the home builder. Nevertheless, considering the defects of the environments from which the children are drawn and the limitations of other substitutes for the natural home—in many respects the same as with institutional homes—it seemed possible to work out a worthwhile scheme, one which will give the human relationships and emotional life, the social experiences and poise, the responsibilities and sacrificial spirit which are usually developed in a home of small means and high standards, as well as giving the housekeeping dexterities which are to be acquired there.

Homewood Terrace—the name was chosen after the project had been completed—is the result of these considerations. It is so located that convenient street-car service brings any one to the doors for a five-cent fare from any part of the city. The plot plan sets the playground on the street front, framed by the main road on which all the service buildings are located—the Gymnasium, the Superintendent's residence, the Administration Building, and the Laundry and Power Plant.

In this way neighbors, visitors, and business people have easy access to all facilities without disturbing the privacy of the residences, and the children find it easy to receive and entertain relatives, friends, and playmates.

The groups in which the children live are so constituted that normal relationships can be normally, unconstrainedly developed. There are twenty children in each—ten boys and ten girls—each sex with children from youngest to oldest. Every one in each family must make some contribution for all the rest. The little ones contribute their helplessness, and themselves to be loved and taken care of. The bigger ones give their growing powers and derive a double satisfaction—the egotistic pleasure of using abilities which others have not yet developed and the unselfish pleasure of making others happy by personal exertions. The little ones have opportunity for developing hero-worship, the bigger ones for becoming the object of such worship. Not only the relationships of younger to older, or weaker to stronger, of slower to brighter, are adjusted, but also of boy to girl and of handy man to homemaker. Every cottage has at least one family with real brothers and sisters, which fact serves to fix a wholesome attitude between the sexes for all the children. Each cottage is headed by a housemother to guide and teach and love and work with her children, so that her children may work heartily and lovingly with and for her. Since there is no set age of discharge, but every child, once admitted, is retained until self-supporting or otherwise properly cared for, the range of ages in each cottage is from four to eighteen or more, for both boys and girls.

There are certain matters which are taken for granted in good homes yet which are by no means innate or come by chance. The decencies of life and personal reserves are such. So are property rights. So, also, the right to privacy and solitude. These are social rights in any civilized community. These are the things which add dignity to efficiency and culture to education. This has been well remembered at Homewood Terrace. Each child has a large locker and also shelf space in the cottage library. Instead of dormitories, there are rooms for three and rooms for four children. In these rooms each child has a built-in wardrobe, amply provided with shelf space, hanging space, and drawers. His own books, his own toys, and his own private place for each, sacred to himself, enable him to play or read or think by himself, away from the milling mass. With this provision a child ought to grow up knowing how to work and how to play with others, and yet able to stand alone and work out his own private problems.

To enjoy such surroundings is an opportunity. But it is *only* an opportunity. It means comfort and happi-



ness only as a result of personal effort. There can be no sitting idly by to enjoy the fruits of another's exertions. The children must keep their homes beautiful and comfortable by their own labor. When some one visits and admires the home, the excellence of the cooking, the happiness of the family, then the glow of pride warms the heart of every child in the household, for each one has a share in this sweet praise. The ideals of home life, with the knowledge and habit of participation, should go through life with these children, back into the habitations of their kin, if they return thither, and into their own homes when they establish them.

The paid Staff is calculated to be able to carry the whole establishment safely through its course. A great amount of supplementary service is drawn from the community through volunteer workers. This is done in order to keep the public well informed concerning the homes which it is supporting, without subjecting these homes to merely prying eyes; in order to give many additional friendly social contacts to the children, and incidentally to effect some little financial savings.

It is now nearly seven years since the change was made from the congregate institution to Homewood Terrace. There has been time to estimate the effect of the changed environment on the children while they are in the institution and after they go back to family life.

The improvement in manner and initiative and responsibility is remarkable. The children have experience both as hosts and as guests, and these social adventures are by no means limited to Homewood Terrace houses and people.

Sex problems have never been any more prominent than before the mixed cottage families were organized. Actually there is less bother from such matters than before. The dangers of propinquity were grossly exaggerated. Expectations of wholesome effects from closer co-operation between boys and girls in family life have been amply justified in these years of experience.

The opportunities for leadership are multiplied by the number of cottages. Opportunities for success are vastly more numerous and varied, both because there are more and different things for the children to do and because groupings among the children are smaller and more fluid. The extremes of docility and forwardness are less in evidence than formerly. The vast amount of service rendered to home and foster brothers and sisters seems to have heightened the attraction which babies exert, and the little ones are always besieged by adoring groups.

Housekeeping arts are, of course, well developed, and both boys and girls take on the management of the household quite naturally when illness or other causes interrupt the activities of the housemother. The children have progressed much further in the management

of materials than in the appreciation of money values. Economic education is most difficult to give when so many relatives and friends give so many unearned coins and clothes and treats of food. The Children's Bank, the store, at which they must buy and pay cash for toilet articles and school supplies, the shopping fund, which enables the older girls to select and pay cash for food supplies within a limited amount each month—these are helpful palliatives, not cures. Even budgeting a household leaves the iron hand of a limited fixed income out of the velvet glove of assured provision. It is much, however, that the youngsters know good things from bad, and know what to do with things when they have them—and that they know what they ought to have for a good life.

It seems futile to try to squeeze a few more details into an account necessarily so brief as this one. It is not possible here to describe in detail to what extent or how the emotional as well as the mental and physical needs of the children are fulfilled. What has been set down above may serve to show how background and organization have been moulded to meet both material and non-material needs.

#### REPORT OF THE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU

The Federal Children's Bureau has made its fifteenth annual report to the Secretary of Labor, pointing out therein the progress made during the last fiscal year. The report will be read with interest by executives of children's agencies and by staff members.

This year, however, it is hardly enough for the professional group merely to read Miss Abbott's accounting of her stewardship. Board members and other lay persons should also be urged by the professional group to read it.

We do not know a great deal about what is happening politically in the East, having been considerably west of the Mississippi since January. But out here the presidential campaign is already on. And one of the prospective candidates in speaking to an audience of several thousand people recently used the Children's Bureau as an example of the way in which this glorious nation is going to the "Bow-wows."

The danger of such attacks lies in the fact that there are many intelligent people who are not informed about the actual service which the Bureau is rendering. Without concrete information they are at a decided disadvantage.

If our political leaders are so put to it to find "safe" issues about which to declaim during the coming campaign that they have to attack the Federal Children's Bureau, it is time to make some effort to secure an informed public opinion among our board members.

—M. I. A.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES REVIEW THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Citizens Committee of the Association of Community Chests and Councils held a unique conference in Washington, D. C., February 20 and 21, 1928. One comes away from a conference like this wondering why such a large group of wealthy contributors and community leaders is not a part of the National Conference of Social Work, yet realizing at the same time that we do not get them out in anything like such numbers to the National Conference. It is stimulating to see those who influence the financial and other support of the largest social work enterprises of the country get together and consider such things as—"Co-operation between National Welfare Organizations and Local Communities," "Division of Responsibility for Welfare Work between Local Government and Private Organizations," "The Importance of a Fact Basis," and half a dozen other topics.

The Conference was in the form of eight group sessions, elaborately organized with committees and secretaries, with summaries of the group discussions brought together in a general session. In addition, there was a luncheon address by President Faunce, Brown University, and Louis Marshall, of New York, and a dinner at which Mr. Herbert Hoover was the chief speaker.

Of special interest to members of the League was the earnest and thorough discussion of the question: "Which local organizations should be included in community chests?" It was obvious that, to a growing extent, membership in a community chest was not perfunctory, but that inclusion in a community chest group would imply the fulfilling of certain requirements and the obligation to meet certain responsibilities with reference to the community. To those of us who are especially interested in the financing of the League it was enlightening to see to what extent national organizations are accepted not only as a "necessary evil," but as having a legitimate claim upon the funds raised by chests. The validity of such a claim, however, probably must be established by the members of such national organizations who are members of the chests. If they believe in the national organizations sufficiently to include a contribution in their budgets, the evidence would indicate that the chests are willing to make possible such contributions, in some cases in surprisingly large amounts.

In view of the success of this conference, it appears that executives of children's agencies can and should get out more of their board members and community leaders to the Regional Conferences of the Child Welfare League of America. If the Community Chest can do it why not we?—PAUL T. BEISSER, General Secretary, Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, Baltimore.

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exerted upon him by other persons. In his daily program there must be leisure.

"I realize that whatever may be ideally desirable, it is practically impossible to conduct a household without ever vetoing a child's choice of activities. Nevertheless, our traditional reasons for such vetoes have been largely in terms of adult standards and the adult sense of what is fitting and safe. To reduce the number of occasions when the parent says 'No' to a child's choice of an activity inevitably means an increase in disorder, inconvenience noise, destruction, or defacement of that which ought not to be destroyed or defaced, and at least some risk to physical well-being. All of these possibilities can, of course, be largely prevented through an autocratic, disciplinary régime which, through the exercise of authority, keeps the behavior of children fairly well within the boundaries of adult standards. But they can also be largely prevented through a non-autocratic type of parental leadership. . . . I should like to be even more heretical. Order, neatness, peace, and good health are desirable features of human life. The human being, however, is not born with an unpromising zest for them, and I do not believe that it is possible for children to achieve an adult standard with respect to them without sacrificing other experiences that are much more important for character development.

"Character is developed not through the child's familiarity with moral concepts and with adult standards of life. It is developed solely through the use which he makes of such material and the infinite variety of other material which makes up our social heritage. Even more specifically character is developed through the child's own choice of the uses which he will make of these. Parents make their finest contribution to the development of the character of children through the use of leisure when, within the limits prescribed by the other obligations of home life, they concede children the maximum opportunity to do as they please, and when they themselves make the maximum response to overtures from children for participation in their childish activities on the children's own terms."

## THE AMERICAN LEGION REPORTS

During the past month many of the billboards along the main highways have been decorated with attractive new posters calling attention to the fact that "THE AMERICAN LEGION IN PEACE AS IN WAR SERVES."

Having just read the statistical report of the National Child Welfare Division as of Jan. 31, 1928, one is struck with the idea that the Legion has at its hand specific data upon which a whole series of posters might well be based.

For example, the facts given in this report indicate that the Legion is not merely sentimental about mother, home, and family ties. It is willing to work at the job of keeping the home fires burning for the children of Legionnaires who gave their lives in the service of their country. Its members apparently believe that if home life is desirable for children whose fathers are able to maintain them, it is also desirable when the mothers are left to carry on alone.



The BULLETIN cannot compete with the new posters in artistic portrayal. But to agencies and individuals particularly interested in protecting children against the kind of "child welfare" which robs them unnecessarily of their families the following figures will have a much greater significance than the posters in spite of their beauty of line and color:

Children in Care of National Welfare Division  
January 31, 1928

	Children	Families
At Otter Lake Billet.....	22	10
At Legionville Billet.....	10	5
Being assisted with their mothers in own homes....	541	189
Being assisted in homes of relatives.....	39	18
Being assisted in foster boarding homes.....	36	17
Local institutions.....	11	7
In free foster homes for adoption.....	5	4
In foster homes, legally adopted.....	7	5
In hospitals.....	2	2
Total	673	257
Monthly per capita cost of children in their own homes during January.....		\$9.51
Monthly per capita cost of children in homes of relatives during January.....		13.97
Monthly per capita cost of children in foster boarding homes during January.....		16.05
Monthly per capita cost of children in local institutions during January.....		22.36

TORONTO CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY INCREASES BOARDING HOME CARE

In a recent report the Children's Aid Society comments upon the increase in the number of children cared for in boarding homes during 1927, and upon the large use of such homes for children with special needs.

The Society, which maintains a Shelter and does free home placing and adoptive work, had two children in boarding homes on September 30, 1924. On September 30, 1927, there were 169 children in boarding homes.

The following paragraph indicates the various types of children which the Society is able to serve because of greater flexibility in treatment facilities:

"While we do not wish to present boarding out as a panacea for all juvenile social ills, yet its great range in the choice and control of environment makes it adaptable to the problem child with his individual needs. In this connection we are speaking of the boarding home in contrast to group care, but not in place of the child's own home and family except in special instances.

"These children with special needs are constantly knocking at our doors. It may be a child whose anti-social behavior makes him a menace to himself and to others. It may be the so-called unplaceable child, whose long stay in an institution is liable to develop an inferiority complex, as the childish mind cannot comprehend why poor heredity or general unattractiveness should debar him from a home. It may be a subnormal child, for whom the psychiatrist does not wish to advise permanent institutional care without a fair trial in a good family home. It may be a child convalescing from illness, or with a venereal disease who does not require hospitalization, but who, because of infection, may not mingle with a group."

STAFF NOTES

During February and the first few days in March our Executive Director covered a large portion of the United States.

The case-work demonstration in connection with the Franklin County Children's Home at Columbus, Ohio, has been started under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth T. Wyatt. Associated with her are Miss Dorothy Badger, Mrs. W. C. Wikoff, and Miss Genevieve Coates. Miss Helen Free will begin work on April 1st. Mr. Carstens spent several days in Columbus during February and was there again early in March.

From February 9th to 29th Mr. Carstens gave service in St. Louis, Tulsa, Chicago, Duluth, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, and Louisville. At Dallas and Louisville he participated in Regional Conferences held under the auspices of the League.

Miss Atkinson and Miss Vose, of the staff, are at present in Tulsa, completing the study of child-caring facilities of that city.

Miss Berolzheimer meanwhile has been in Washington, D. C., Richmond, Norfolk, Raleigh, Greensboro, and Columbia, South Carolina.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Senator Sherman W. Child, of Minneapolis, is the new chairman of the National Child Welfare Committee of the American Legion. Senator Child is particularly well qualified for this important chairmanship. He has been identified with Minnesota's program of social legislation for many years, and has made important contributions to the social development of his own state.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members Only)

OPPORTUNITY NIGHT. By F. Zeta Youmans, Child Labor Department, Juvenile Protective Association, 816 Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois. A reprint from the Survey Graphic of September 1, 1927.

CHILD WELFARE WORK SINCE THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE. By C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America. Reprinted from Hospital Social Service, XVI, 1927, 389. This article was an address delivered by Mr. Carstens at the National Conference of Social Work at Des Moines, May, 1927.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

MICHIGAN.—Detroit Branch of the Michigan Children's Aid Society, Leon W. Frost, General Secretary, has moved from 71 Warren Avenue West to 51 Warren Avenue West, Detroit.

OHIO.—Children's Bureau of the Social Service Federation has moved from 572 Ontario Street to 1035 Superior Street, Toledo.

### INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.  
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### VIEWPOINTS ON MATERNITY HOME CARE

MILDRED P. CARPENTER

Executive Secretary, Rochester Community Home for Girls

The subject of illegitimacy is too large and has too many ramifications to make it possible to discuss more than one or two aspects of its problems in a short paper. Therefore I propose to consider it from the point of view of one working at a county-wide program for illegitimacy, with the Maternity Home at the heart of that program.

The Maternity Home finds itself appealed to for protection, and often for nothing more than the meeting of the temporary need. The answer of the Home to this appeal is that its work is more than ameliorative, that it is confronted with the task of rebuilding a life, and that shelter is but a small part of what it has to give. By its specialized function it has a creative part to play in the life of the girl it receives. If its purpose be this, it involves a well-rounded program in which health, education, recreation, and religion must play their part.

The length of a girl's stay in the Maternity Home has much to do with the effectiveness of a program for her. It is taken for granted that good standards require a stay of some duration. However, where the case work plan and the program in the institution are well related, the length of stay may depend on the physical needs of mother and child and on the case work plan for them. However carefully such a program is thought out, it cannot be carried out with an inferior personnel. The qualities of all the workers must be more than ordinary ones in vision, in understanding of psychology, in ability to command affection, and to lead a group. The personal work with the girls is an important part of the Home's specialized function. This demands unusual traits of character. It presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the worker, as well as a hard and self-sacrificing task.

But in addition to this special function of the Home, it has an added one. The intensive care which the girl is receiving must go hand in hand with the case-work plan for social readjustment which, just at the time she is staying in the Home, is going through its most important stages of development. The Home has great power to thwart or to strengthen the case work, and therefore is a vital part of the whole program. Because of the divergent emphases in each, it seems necessary that the case work and the institutional work be headed up in one of two ways. Either the Home may have its own case-working department which will be responsible for the investigation and follow-up care of all the cases it receives; or else a case-working agency may control the Home as a department of its own.

Public opinion as a whole is far behind expert opinion as to the treatment of the problems involved in illegiti-

macy; and it will only be by care in interpretation, as well as by sound case work, that general standards as to these may be raised. Yet at every point a lagging public opinion may thwart the case worker. She has a girl under her care who has been employed in a family. The family is extremely interested in her, likes her, and still has confidence in her in spite of her misstep. They are ready to interest themselves in her future career. They gladly turn to the Home for the temporary care needed. But immediately an entire difference in point of view from that of the worker is manifest. They resent any effort on her part to deal with any of the problems arising from her situation. Although the circumstances do not warrant a marriage, they wish to bring it about "in order to give the child a name." There is no consideration of whether there is here a basis for an enduring relationship between the girl and the man. The case worker by the thoroughness of her understanding of the attitudes, background and equipment of both has made this diagnosis. She has good grounds for it, but she must depend for support not on this, but on her power to interpret it when she meets lack of understanding and opposition.

The question of the future of the child arises, and again there is a difference of opinion. The employer would like to see it immediately placed for adoption, even without the preliminary of a period of breast feeding. They have in mind the obvious advantages of a good adoption, with the baby's future, as they think, assured, and the girl's disgrace avoided. The worker, on the other hand, would find a solution in a temporary boarding home till the girl knows better what she really wants to do about the baby, and how she may be able to accomplish it. The possibility of developing by good case work the permanent relation between mother and child which is their natural right, and the spiritual development of the mother, as well as the physical rights of the child, are the worker's larger goal which she now has to interpret.

Again, the employers oppose any prosecution of the man. "What is the use?" they say, "a judgment may be obtained which is likely, as in nine cases out of ten, to be defaulted later. The cost of future prosecution in that event will be prohibitive from the point of view of the public authorities. And so the only result of the action will be the futile publicity and needless disgrace of the girl." The case worker meets this view with her own ideas on the relation of this effort for enforcement of the existing law to the need in our communities of morally responsible men as well as women, in the matter of bringing into the world fatherless children and providing them with their rightful support.

We have been speaking largely of the treatment by social adjustment in its community aspects. But we have still to go deeper for permanent rehabilitation of the girl. A change in personality must be effected. This should be brought about to an extent which is not always a feature of case work. Right here we must find deeper bases for our work of rehabilitation than the modern point of view perhaps allows us. It is the restoration of a girl's self-respect we are to concern ourselves with, the re-creation of her spirit. We are to make this attempt through a conscious renewal of her faith in herself, of her hope as a stimulus to flagging energies, of her love as a nourisher and source of renewed effort.